

FOREIGN POLICY

■ **Iraq:** Five-year war has cost American taxpayers \$600 billion, lives of almost 4,200 U.S. troops and 88,000-96,000 Iraqis

Jul 2008: Pentagon concludes there was no link between **Saddam Hussein** and **Al Qaeda** and 9/11 attacks on America

Lasting legacy of President Bush

■ **Afghanistan:** Clashes with resurgent **Taliban** rise to highest level in seven-year war. **Planners of 9/11 – Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri – remain free in areas along Afghan-Pakistan border**

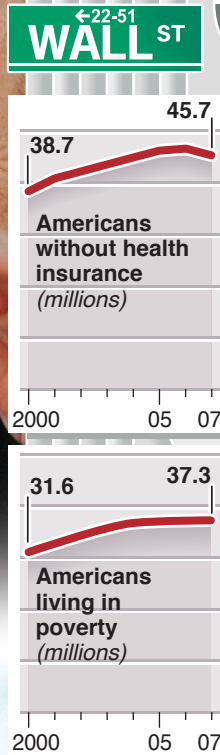
■ **Pakistan:** U.S. attempts to assassinate bin Laden using unmanned drones mostly kill Pakistani civilians, undermining leadership of President **Asif Ali Zardari**

■ **Middle East:** Administration resists taking active role in Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking and rejects outcome of democratic elections won by **Hamas**. **Belated promise to bring Palestinian state into being before Bush leaves office is now impossible**

■ **Iran:** Continues nuclear programme using Tehran's strategic influence in Iraq to counter U.S.-Israeli threats

■ **North Korea:** President **Kim Jong-il** responds to Bush's **axis of evil** threats by test-firing atomic device in late 2006

■ **Latin America:** Washington's **Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA)** fails because poor farmers can't compete with subsidized U.S. products
Venezuela's President **Hugo Chavez** initiates **Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas** to counter FTAA. Members include Venezuela, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, Honduras, Nicaragua and Brazil



NO ACCESS INTO NEW ORLEANS



DOMESTIC POLICY

■ **Tax cuts:** Under Bush's 10-year, \$674 billion tax-cut plan to boost economy, 65% of tax relief goes to richest tenth of population – just 4% goes to poorest 40% of population

Over 12 million families, with 24 million children, receive no tax cut at all

■ **Health care:** Plan to increase number of citizens with health insurance by deregulation results in cost of private insurance soaring by 80%. **Number of uninsured Americans increases by seven million since 2000**

■ **Poverty:** After years of decline during 1990s, number of Americans living in poverty rises by 5.7 million during Bush presidency

■ **Hurricane Katrina:** Bush administration is slow to respond to 2005 disaster which kills more than 1,830 people. Three years later, 180,000 evacuees are still unable to return to New Orleans, 65,000 homes are uninhabitable and rents are up 46%

■ **National debt:** Ceiling raised to \$10.6 trillion in July 2008 to pay for bailout of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. **Each U.S. citizen's share of debt is \$33,928**

■ **Immigration:** Bush's plan to enable some of around 12 million illegal immigrants to seek citizenship collapses in Senate

Approval rating: 29.4% – among all-time worst since 1945

War on Terror: Domestic wiretapping programme, legal limbo at **Guantanamo Bay** and torture at **Abu Ghraib** prison become defining icons of Bush administration's legacy

